

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	9170	Agenda Number	19.
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Meeting Date:	8/25/2011	Department:	Neighborhood and Community Development
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Subject

Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for grant funding up to \$3,000,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, for the Fiscal Year 2011 Community Challenge Planning Grant Program to assist in developing the City-owned tract known as Colony Park.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities Fiscal Year 2011 Community Challenge Planning Grant Program, for the grant period of three years from the date funds are obligated. A twenty percent match is required, which will be met through in-kind services.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Contact Elizabeth A. Spencer, Director, 974-3182.
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

Approval of this action will authorize the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) Office to submit a Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a Community Challenge Planning grant in an amount of \$3,000,000. A twenty percent match is required, which will be met through in-kind services.

HUD's Community Challenge Planning Grant Program (Program) fosters reform and reduces barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital, and sustainable communities. Such efforts may include amending or replacing local master plans, zoning codes, and building codes either on a jurisdiction-wide basis or in a specific neighborhood, district, corridor or sector. The efforts are designed to promote mixed-use development, affordable housing, the reuse of older buildings and structures for new purposes and similar activities with the goal of promoting sustainability at the local or neighborhood level.

The goal of the Program is to reduce barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital, and sustainable communities. If awarded funds, the NHCD will use the Program to prepare a comprehensive development plan and fund predevelopment and construction costs to create a liveable community on the City-owned 208-acre tract known as Colony Park. The NHCD's goal is to create a sustainable community of mixed incomes with access to employment and other amenities through the availability of and access to transportation.

The Colony Park neighborhood is located in northeast Austin near the intersection of Loyola Lane and Decker Lane. The Austin Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) Board authorized the purchase of 208 acres in the Colony Park neighborhood for the purpose of coordinating the development of low- and moderate-income housing. The vision for the Colony Park development is a sustainable, mixed-use development that will support small businesses and provide amenities to the neighborhood and region at large. Following the purchase, the AHFC Board also approved planning and engineering of affordable units in this future growth corridor near a proposed rail stop.

NHCD will finance its Program projects with a combination of the Program grant as well as other federal and local funding sources.